

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/657,949

Applicant(s)

PETERSON, JOHN

Examiner

Kanj Patel

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/23/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5-12,15-18,20-31 and renumbered as 1-3,7-18,20-27,4-6 and 19, respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/23/05, 3/20/06, 4/21/05, 2/28/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

RCE

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application **after allowance** or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/23/05 has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The examiner has considered the information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 11/23/05, 3/20/06, 4/21/05 and 2/28/05.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-3, 5-12, 15-18 and 20-31 (Renumbered as 1-3, 7-18, 20-27, 4-6 and 19 respectively) are allowed.

For independent claims 1 and 15, the prior art on record fails to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, for merging images of segments of a view, comprising among other things, composition the first portion of the second image on the first image at a relative position of the second segment relative to the first segment to produce the panoramic image, the compositing of the first portion of the second image causing the first portion to mask out a part of the first image.

For independent claims 5 and 20, the prior art on record fails to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, for merging a set of images, each image representing a corresponding segment of a view, the set including a first image representing a first segment of the view, a second image representing a second segment of the view, and a third image representing a third segment of the view, where the third segment of the view overlaps both the first segment and the second segment of the view, comprising, among other things, if the first overlap area is greater than the second overlap area, offsetting the position of the third image relative to the first image and the second image based on the determined first relative position, otherwise, offsetting the position of the third image relative to the first image and the second image based on the determined second relative position.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Other prior art cited

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Uyttendaele et al. (US 6,788,333 B1) disclose a panoramic video.

Teo (US 6,246,412 B1) discloses a method and system for creating panoramas.

Driscoll Jr. et al. (US 6,583,815 B1) disclose a method and apparatus for presenting images from a remote location.

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Szeliski et al. (US 6,097,854) disclose an image mosaic construction system and apparatus with patch-based alignment, global block adjustment and pair-wise motion based local warping.

Driscoll, Jr. et al. (US 6,459,451 B2) disclose a method and apparatus for a panoramic camera to capture a 360 degree image.


Lyons (US 6,734,911 B1) discloses a tracking camera using a lens that generates both wide-angle and narrow-angle views.

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kanji Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-7454. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bella, Matthew can be reached on (571) 272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kanji Patel
Art Unit 2624
4/11/06


KANJIBHAI PATEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER